

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GABORO 00427 01 OF 02 190400Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----190421 107329 /20

P R 181415Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9485
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GABORONE 0427

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, BC, US
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KHAMA

REF: STATE 037481

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT KHAMA RECEIVED ME FEB. 18 WHICH (A) PROVIDED OCCASION TO TRANSMIT PRES. CARTER'S REPLY TO KHAMA'S LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS DATED JAN. 21 AND (B) PERMITTED GENERAL REVIEW OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES. HE PROLONGED THE MEETING BY RAISING TWO CONCERNS IN THE FORM OF QUESTIONS (SEPTTEL). END SUMMARY..

2. TEN DAYS AGO I ASKED CHARLES TIBONE, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, ABOUT PRES. KHAMA'S HEALTH AND WHEN I MIGHT SEE HIM FOR FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING SINCE PRESENTING CREDENTIALS DEC. 14. TIBONE SAID THE PRESIDENT WAS FEELING BETTER AND THAT A REQUEST FOR A MEETING THE FOLLOWING WEEK WOULD STAND A GOOD CHANCE OF BEING FULFILLED. IN RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FEB. 16, A MEETING WAS SET FOR 1130, FEB. 18.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GABORO 00427 01 OF 02 190400Z

3. I FOUND PRESIDENT LOOKING WELL AND IN RELATIVELY RELAXED FRAME OF MIND DESPITE PRESS OF VISITORS (E.G. UN FARAH MISSION WAS ELSEWHERE IN PRESIDENTIAL OFFICES). HE HAD CLEARLY GAINED SOME WEIGHT AND MOVED ABOUT MORE EASILY. HE NOTED IT HAD BEEN NEARLY THREE MONTHS SINCE HIS OPERATION, FROM WHICH HE FELT ALMOST FULLY RECOVERED, AND THAT PACEMAKER "LEADS IN HIS HEART WERE SEALED". ONLY OCCASIONALLY WAS HE REMINDED OF PRESENCE OF

PACEMAKER.

4. OUR MEETING LASTED AN HOUR, WITH THE LAST HALF-HOUR AT HIS INITIATIVE. MAJOR SUBJECTS COVERED WERE (A) SITUATION AND PROSPECTS IN RHODESIA, WHICH PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY TO HIM THE GUIDELINES REFTEL, AND (B) NAMIBIA, WHICH HE SAID WAS "FRANCLY" OF LESS INTEREST (SEPTEL. AS I MOVE TO DEPART HE ASKED TWO QUESTIONS: WHAT WAS THE REATIONALE BEHIND CONCERN FOR "MINORITY RIGHTS" IN ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA? SECOND, WHAT WERE THESE SOURCES "ATTRIBUTED TO WESTERN INTELLIGENCE" USED BY RHODESIAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN PAPERS IN WHAT HE CONSIDERS A VERITABLE CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT BOTSWANA? I PROMISED TO LOOK INTO BOTH QUESTION (SEPTEL).

5. AFTER OPENING AMENITIES, INCLUDING PLEASURE AT SEEING HIM LOOKING SO WELL, I TRANSMITTED TEST OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S REPLY DATED FEB. 17 TO KHAMW'S LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS OF JAN. 21 (REPORTED SEPTEL).

6. NOTING THAT THIS WAS OUR FIRST MEETING SINCE PRES. CARTER'S INAUGURATION, I ASKED HIM TO REVIEW THE RHODESIAN SITUATION. IN REPLY, KHAMA STRESSED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SMITH FOR THE FAILURE OF THE RICHARD PROPOSALS. KHAMA SAID HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES CONSIDERED THOSE PROPOSALS SUITABLE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION. BUT SMITH SAID NO, THUS CONFIRMING HIS RECORD AND REPUTATION OF TRYING TO "ENTRENCH HIMSELF". KHAMA SAID FRONLINE STATES WERE DETERMINED TO PREVENT SMITH FROM HAVE THE "LAST WORD" ON LAW AND ORDER. ASKING WHERE WE GO FROM HERE, PRESIDENT KHAMA SAID HE HAD RECENTLY READ IN THE PRESS OF CONSULTATIONS AMONG UK, U.S. AND SOUTH AFRICA BUT POINTEDLY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GABORO 00427 01 OF 02 190400Z

COMMENTED THAT HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE SUBJECT BEYOND THE PRESS. I SAID I HAD JUST RECEIVED GUIDANCE WHICH I CONVEYED PER PARA 3 REFTEL. KHAMA LISTENED CAREFULLY AND SEEMED SOMEWHAT REASSURED BY PRO-

MISE TO "STAY IN TOUCH", A POINT HE ASKED ME TO REPEAT. HIS FIRST COMMENT WAS THAT THERE IS A "STALEMATE".

7. RETURNING TO HIS REVEIW OF SITUATION, PRES. KHAMA SAID STALEMENT HURTS THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION. DURING THIS PERIOD SMITH IS "GEARED UP FOR MILITARY ACTION SO THE OTHER SIDE ENGAGES IN A CORRESPONDING BUILDUP". KHAMA REFERRED TO HIMSELF AS AMONG THOSE WHO STILL WANT PEACEFUL SOLUTION BUT SAID HE GETS "ANNOYED AT BEING SNIPED AT", I.E., BY THOSE WHO BELIEVE "ONLY FORCE WILL WORK". AS TIME GOES ON, HE SAID, BITTERNESS GROWS, FIGHTING ESCALATES AND IT BECOMES INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO SAY TO FRDEDOM FIGHTERS : "BACK OFF NOW". ALSO, IF SMITH THINKS HE IS WINNING, HE WILL HAVE NO INCENTIVE TO NEGOTIATE. AS FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, THEY ARE THE PEOPLE FIGHTING SMITH; IF THEY "GAIN GROUND" THEY TO WILL BE LESS INTERESTED IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

8. PRES. THEN NOTED A SPECIFIC POINT TO ILLUSTRATE HIS APPREHENSION ABOUT THE CURRENT PERIOD OF DELAY AND INACTION. KHAMASAIID THAT BEGINNING IN 1974 IT HAD BEEN UNDERSTOOD THAT FREEDOM FIGHTERS WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO MAKE BILATERLA ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPLY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. FRANKLY, HE SAID, THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS A WAY OF "MAINTAINING CONTROL AND LIMITING ARMS". ALTHOUGH NEVER COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL, IT WAS AN EFFORT TO SDT UP A " UNIFIED SOURCE OF SUPPLY". LATELY, KHAMA SAID, VARIOUS NATIONALIST ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPING SEPARATE SOURCES OF SUPPLY ON A "BILATERAL BASIS" AND SAID ONE SUCH NEW SOURCE OF SUPPLY (UNNAMED) WAS OF CONCERN TO HIM. A RESULT WAS "LESSEned INFLUENCE" OF FRONTLINE STATES ON FREEDOM FIGHTERS. ANOTHER RESULT WOULD BE THE ENHANCED POSSIBILITY OF NATIONALISTS FIGHTING AMONG THEMSELVES AND OF ESCALATED FIGHTING.

9. KHAMA THEN COMMENTED ON THE "ABSENCE OF COORDINATION"
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 GABORO 00427 01 OF 02 190400Z

AMONG THE MUGABE-NKOMO FORCES AND SAID THIS IS OFTEN VIGOROUSLY CRITICIZED BY WESTERN SOURCES, EVEN TO THE POINT OF "HOSTILITY" TOWARD THEM. HE DEPLORED THIS KIND OF CRITICISM AS HELPING NOBODY. KHAMA NOTED THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS "THE FIRST COMING TOGETHER" OF COMPETING NATIONAVMXOTLR GROUPS OPPOSING THE SMITH REGIME AND THAT IT REMAINS THE ONE EFFECTIVE FIGHTING FORCE. WITHOUT INDICATING ANY SPECIFIC TARGET OF HIS COMMENT, KHAMA REPEATED THAT "IT DOESN'T HELP TO LABEL THEM. OUR INFLUENCE IS WEAKENED IF WE CRITICIZE THEM".

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GABORO 00427 02 OF 02 181854Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----190422 098795 /20

P R 181415Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9486
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L FINAL SECTION OF 2 GABORONE 0427

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

10. AT THE CONCLUSION OF OUR MEETING, PRES. KHAMA RETURNED TO THE SUBJECT OF RHODESIA TO SAY HE COULD NOT BELIEVE THAT WORLD OR U.S. OPINION COULD FAIL TO UNDERSTAND THAT WHILE BOTSWANA DID NOT PERMIT FREEDOM FIGHTERS TO SET UP CAMPS (FROM WHICH TO ATTACK RHODESIA) AND REFUSED TO PERMIT MILITARY TRAINING IN BOTSWANA, IT WOULD SHOOT BACK IF FIRED UPON FROM RHODESIA. "WOULDN'T THE U.S. DO SO IF ATTACKED?", HE ASKED RHETORICALLY. HE THEN COMMENTED THAT HE HAD BEEN PLEASED TO HEAR FROM WASHINGTON THAT THE U.S. MIGHT BE RECONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF HELPING BOTSWANA ARM ITSELF AND ASKED IF I KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS SUBJECT. I REPLIED THAT I UNDERSTOOD ONLY THAT A POLICY REVIEW WAS IN PROGRESS.

1. ACTION REQUESTED: IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE AT THE ORIGIN OF PRESIDENT KHAMA'S COMMENT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE HERE ALONG WITH GUIDANCE ON THIS VITAL SUBJECT FOR USE AS APPROPRIATE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.

12. DEPARTMENT DISTRIBUTE AS DESIRED.

NORLAND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GABORO 00427 02 OF 02 181854Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEALTH, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CHIEF OF STATE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GABOR000427
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770059-0693
Format: TEL
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770228/aaaaayrl.tel
Line Count: 203
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 59a57cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 37481
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3284335
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KHAMA
TAGS: PFOR, BC, US, (KHAMA, SERETSE M)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/59a57cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009